

Council on Postsecondary Education
November 7, 2005

Master of Arts in Special Education
Kentucky State University

Universities are required to submit all new education programs to the Council for approval. The Master of Arts in Special Education proposed by Kentucky State University will be targeted at teachers who are emergency certified with the goal of increasing diversity in the teaching field.

<p>ACTION: The staff recommends that the Council approve the Master of Arts in Special Education (CIP 13.1001) proposed by Kentucky State University.</p>

Kentucky State University proposes a Master of Arts in Special Education to address the critical shortage of special education teachers in Kentucky, especially well-qualified minority practitioners. The program will offer an alternate route to certification for qualified candidates wishing to teach K-12 students with learning and behavioral disorders.

KSU received a rating of "excellent" in 2004-05 on the Quality Performance Index (QPI), a measure designed by the Education Professional Standards Board to evaluate teacher preparation programs based on PRAXIS II and KTIP pass rates, as well as new teacher survey results. As of October 3, 2005, KSU's education program is no longer bound by restrictions placed upon it by the EPSB.

KSU received a State Improvement Grant totaling nearly \$1 million from the Kentucky Department of Education's Office of Special Education to develop this program. KSU will utilize these resources to ensure special educators receive training to function in technology-rich classrooms. Two new tenure-track positions will be requested to hire faculty with expertise in the areas of learning and behavioral disorders and moderate-to-severe disabilities.

KSU plans to collaborate with public and independent Kentucky institutions offering similar programs and with the Kentucky Virtual University to make the curriculum available online.

The KSU Board of Trustees approved the program at its February 4, 2005, meeting.